

### Lesson 3 – What were the real causes of the Black Death?

#### Types of plague

The Black Death included two types of pestilence (fatal epidemic disease).

1. **Bubonic Plague**-made people feel very tired and cold. Painful swellings (buboes) appeared in their armpits and groin and small blisters all over their body. This was followed by high fever and severe headache. Many lingered unconscious for several days before death. **This form of the Black Death was spread by fleas that lived on black rats, but which could be passed onto other animal and human fleas.** Once an infected flea bit a person, that person would become infected. People at the time didn't know this. **Death Rate:** Between **30% & 75%** of people died, usually after about 4 days!
2. **Pneumonic Plague**- attacked the victim's lungs causing breathing problems. Victims began to cough up blood and died more rapidly than those who had Bubonic Plague. This form of Black Death was **spread by people breathing or coughing germs on to one another.** **Death Rate: 95% of people with this type of plague died, within 2 to 3 days.**

Q1. Which was the more deadly and why?

Q2. Why were there more rats on the streets at this time? How did this help to spread the plague?

Q3. Look at the diagram showing how the Bubonic plague spread. Complete it by adding the following labels in the correct places.

The fleas bit the humans

The humans died

The flea bit another human

The plague germs lived in rats' blood

Fleas sucked the rats' blood

# How did the Black Death Spread?

